

THE Edison Report

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Two Proposals Received



Accenture Ltd. and MAXIMUS Inc. submitted proposals to replace and centralize the State's human resources/payroll administration, financial management, procurement and logistic systems. Technical evaluations of the proposals are underway.

Agency Outreach Meetings Held

The excitement and support for Project Edison is building. Over the past few months, members of Project Edison's team held 42 individual meetings with key members of the State's departments, agencies, boards and commissions. Twelve more meetings are being scheduled to complete this phase.

The meetings, led by Edison's Enterprise Readiness team, were held to:

- Give an update on the Edison Project.
- Discuss anticipated changes.
- Begin to plan for implementation tasks.
- Discuss the roles/responsibilities of those involved.
- Discuss issues of concern and answer questions.

More than 800 people participated in these meetings. Some of the most frequently asked questions are included in this newsletter. The next step in the Outreach process is to meet with subject matter experts to discuss and document in detail the technical requirements.

Thanks to all who participated in our meetings. Your help and support are invaluable!

"We look forward to working with your team to vastly improve state government processes."

Walter Jones
Department of Military

What's Next?

- Software demonstrations: March 13-24
- Notice of Intent to Award: May 17
- Project start date: July 5

In The News



The Associated Press released a story about Project Edison on February 21. **USA Today**, **WKRN** and **News Channel 5** also carried the story. Click on this link to read WKRN's article: <http://www.wkrn.com/node/5515>

Edison Team Spotlight: Clyde Phillips



Clyde Phillips

As the Edison Financials Manager, Clyde Phillips wears many hats (as some may remember from an October meeting). His responsibilities include Accounts Payable/Receivable, Budget Control, Cash Management, Cost Allocation, General Ledger, Grant Accounting, Project Management and Travel.

Clyde predicts the impact of Project Edison will affect future generations. "State Government has a history of keeping systems for a long time, (good and bad systems), so the changes we implement will affect State Government for the next 20 years. Therefore," he explains, "our efforts to implement a system that streamlines the administrative functions of the State will determine how State Government functions for our children and grandchildren."

Before coming to Project Edison in May 2005, Clyde was the Director of Statewide Accounting with the Division of Accounts. He has been with the State for more than 25 years, beginning his career with State Audit after receiving his Master's in Accounting from the University of Alabama.

Things you may not have known about Clyde:

- He served as an officer in the Army for three years, but decided Army life wasn't for him.
- He and Julie, his wife of 21 years, have four children, aged 18, 15, and twin 10-year-old boys. (Two other Edison team members have twin 10-year-olds.)
- Clyde, a former trombone player, spends his free time going to marching band contests and baseball games with his family.

Frequently Asked Questions



What will the change mean to the average state employee?

Many redundant processes currently exist. For example, processing payments and benefits requires duplicate keying in many agencies. This system will eliminate many such administrative tasks, allowing employees to make better use of their time. Further, employees will be able to update their personal information. Whether they wish to change their addresses, beneficiaries, or look up their pay stubs, all this will be available online in a secure environment.



Who will be able to view the personal information?

Each employee will have a login and password, which will only allow access to his or her own personal account.



What about employees without computer access?

We plan to work with agencies to address this issue. One solution might be setting up kiosk-type computers for employees to use.



Will an approval process be set up for the employee self-service applications?

Yes, we anticipate that work flows will be implemented for supervisors and/or the Agency's Human Resource Department to approve employees' transactions.



How many people could be displaced? What's the human impact?

It is anticipated that resources that are freed will be retooled or refocused. No mandate exists for the elimination of jobs.



What is the benchmarking program?

Separate from Project Edison, the benchmarking program is to provide an assessment of the State's administrative processes. The Hackett Group, a firm experienced in performance measurement, was hired through the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) to assist the State in this evaluation. Documentation of the States' processes has begun, and the information gathered will be analyzed by the Hackett Group.

The benchmarking surveys will help establish current baseline transaction costs and process data for the core administrative processes within human resources, payroll, financial, procurement and I.T. areas. The effort will provide the State with the ability to compare our

performance to other state governments and the private sector.



Is Project Edison a part of the benchmarking program?

Project Edison is a participant in the various functional discussions in support of the data gathering process, but we are not leading nor facilitating the benchmarking program. The initial reports and identified opportunities for improvement will be shared with Project Edison for consideration and integration into our business process analysis.

Project Edison will use the information to help identify potential improvements that are consistent with the capability of the selected software solution. Hence, the benchmarking results will be used to help drive future improvements.



Will the current system and the new system run concurrently for testing purposes? Will we be double entering data?

Every system will be thoroughly tested; dual entry will be minimized or eliminated. Payroll will be parallel tested statewide, while financials and procurement will use smaller samples.



When will training begin?

High-level training will begin early, regarding business processes, etc. In-depth training will begin two to three months before the software is implemented.



Will the system be user friendly?

Yes, the software will be web-based, and include drop-down boxes, help screens, and will be intuitive to use.



Will the system provide an audit trail?

Yes, complete audit trails will be provided by the system.

Visit our Intranet site to read more FAQs:

<http://intranet.state.tn.us/erp>

Questions/Suggestions?

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us via e-mail: edison@state.tn.us



A Bright Idea for State Government